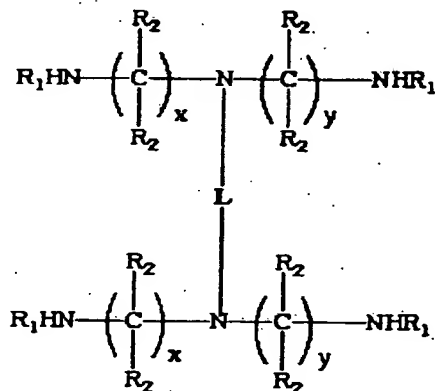


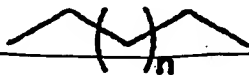
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

45. (currently amended) A synthetic polyamine dimer formed of two polyamine units, each having at least three amino groups including an intermediate amino group, said units being attached to each other by alkylation through a linker which is a chemical entity that is covalently attached to both said intermediate amino groups said polyamine dimer having the following structure [(2)] (3):

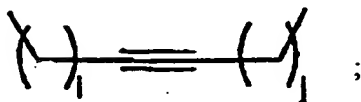


Wherein wherein R₁ is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl, R₂ is H or methyl, x is greater than two and less than five (2 < x < 5), y is greater than 2 and less than five (2 < y < 5) and L is the following chemical entity~~[[.]]~~



~~Wherein 0 < m < 8, wherein 0 < n < 8.~~

O.K. to enter S.K. 2/3/05



Wherein ~~wherein~~ $0 < i < 6$

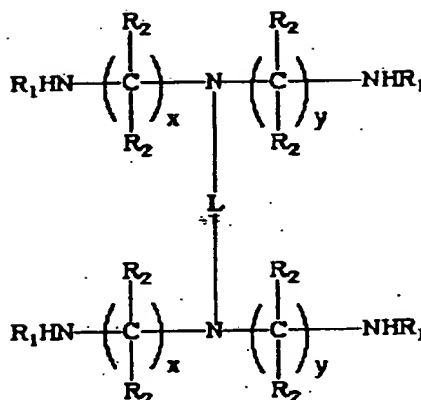
$0 < j < 6$

$1 \leq i + j \leq 7$;

Covalently ~~covalently~~ connecting said first polyamine chain to said second polyamine chain.

2/ 46. (previously presented) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 45, wherein $x = 3$, R_1 is a hydrogen atom, R_2 is a methyl (CH_3) group ^{or a} for the ~~carbon atom located next to each NH-R group and is a hydrogen atom for all these carbons and $w = 4$.~~

3/ 47. (previously presented) A synthetic polyamine dimer formed of two polyamine units, each having at least three amino groups including an intermediate amino group, said units being attached to each other by alkylation through a linker which is a chemical entity that is covalently attached to both said intermediate amino groups said polyamine dimer having the following structure (3):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 45, where x and y are greater than 2 and smaller than 5 ($2 < x < 5$, $2 < y < 5$), where the sum of x and y is greater than 5 and smaller than 9 ($5 < (x + y) < 9$) and where L is the linker as defined in claim 45.

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein R_1 is H, x is 3 or 4, y is 3 or 4.

~~50. (previously presented) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein the linker L is an aliphatic carbon chain having a structure $-(CH_2)_n-$, where n is greater than 2 and less than 10.~~

51. (canceled)